

Convoy update - January 27th, 2022

From: "Williams, Caroline" </o=pco-pmo-bnet/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cabb45d2a6d84daf99b621b96fc53c53-ca_williams">
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Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2022 02:24:18 +0000
Attachments: 27-01-2022 Trade and Transport Cohort for Jan 26 (final).docx (119.32 kB)

Good evening sir,

Consolidating a few updates. We have the GOC's end of day update, and an in-depth update from the RCMP as well. Attached is CBSA's continued border traffick monitoring data.

For your awareness, the Ottawa Police are planning a news conference at potentially 11AM or 11:30AM tomorrow on the upcoming protests.

GOC Update:

New information in bold

The following relates to a planned peaceful demonstration in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan. The Government Operations Centre (GOC) is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets.

For information on planned traffic routes, please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)

- **For real time updates on the city of Ottawa road closures, please refer to the city of Ottawa website as well as the Twitter feed for the City of Ottawa Police.**

Overview:

- Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals." [Link](#)

Key Points:

- A number of Canadian truckers have planned a massive convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.
- Trucking convoys from across the country are planning to gather in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan to demonstrate against this requirement. The convoys are aiming to arrive in downtown Ottawa by noon on 29 Jan, however some are anticipated to arrive as early as 28 Jan.

- There are three main convoys (East, South and West) heading to Ottawa and additional demonstrations being planned across Canada. Contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organization's website: [Link](#)
 - **Eastern Convoy departed PEI on 27 Jan with 76 vehicles crossing the Confederation Bridge heading to Auluc, NB. to meet up with other Eastern convoys. The organizers worked with the RCMP and the Confederation Bridge authorities.**
 - **Southern convoy: The Windsor and Sarnia Convoys had merged into a single convoy before passing through London and the GTA attracting large groups of supporters roadside on its way to Kingston for the night. Convoy will depart for Ottawa on 28 Jan. Extensive traffic delays have been reported throughout the day along the route with the Convoy currently on HWY401. [Link](#)**
 - The 401 was closed due to an accident this morning which is delaying the convoy.
 - **The Western Convoy originating from BC is traveling between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie today. [Link](#)**
 - Northern Ontario has seen the closure of the Trans-Canada Highway due to weather conditions and this may impede a convoy of truckers from BC. [Link](#)
 - A group of 1000-2000 demonstrators are meeting at the Alexandria Bridge on the Quebec side and crossing over to Ottawa at 11:15 on Saturday.
 - "Slow roll" convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing are being planned over the weekend. [Link](#)
 - In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)
 - **In PEI, a Convoy plans to begin a slow roll demonstration at 13:00 EST on 29 Jan from the By-Pass and University Ave intersection down University Ave to the Cenotaph before dispersing.**
 - **NB is anticipating the following CI disruptions: Blockade of Woodstock NB and Houlton ME International Port of Entry, Blockade of Highway 2 at NB/NS border, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Edmundston NB and Madawaska ME International Port of Entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Perth Andover NB and Fort Fairfield ME international port of entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of highway 2 at NB/Quebec border.**
 - **On 28 Jan, truckers will be meeting at 3 Ports Of Entries (POE) (Saint-Theophile, Stanstead, and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle), and will drive on Highway 40 until Vankleek Hill ,ON, and will move onward to Ottawa on 29 Jan.**
 - **There are 500 trucks confirmed in the state of Maine as participating on the US side of the border and 300 trucks confirmed in NB to be participating on the highway 95, along with several personal vehicles. Commercial trucks are expected to block highway 95 while passenger vehicles are expected to block highway 555 from Beardsley Road. Transport trucks and individuals will arrive in Ottawa between 28-29 Jan.**
- Canadian Truck Alliance (CTA) and the Atlantic Canadian Trucking Association do not support any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges.
- According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised over \$6.2 million in fundraising in support of their cause. [Link](#)
- As part of the protest, Canada Unity plans to present a request (MOU) to the Governor General and Senate for the removal of various COVID19 related Public Health Order restrictions.

- Some supporters suggested they would not leave Ottawa until vaccine mandates for public servants, Canadian travelers and cross-border truckers are lifted.
- **An event Organizer stated the plan is to “gridlock the city, while leaving room for traffic to businesses and emergency vehicles to get through” while holding events with speakers at a yet to be disclosed stage location** [Link](#)
- OPP has said that it is working with those involved to minimize the impact to the public and ensure public safety. [Link](#)
- Ottawa police now preparing for multiple groups coming to Ottawa with planning underway for a range of risks including counter-demonstrations, blocking of intersections, interfering with critical infrastructure, and unlawful activity.
- Freedom Convoy 2022 organizer says the group won’t tolerate extremists and instructed participants "If you see participants along the way that are misbehaving, acting aggressively in any way or inciting any type of violence or hatred, please take down the truck number and their license plate number so that we can forward that to the police," in response to fringe groups/people calling for destructive action. [Link](#)
- A joint communication strategy is being developed by the City of Ottawa to ensure the public is informed of traffic and transit plans throughout the demonstration.
- **Ottawa police are planning for around 1,000 to 2,000 vehicles, while also noting the Freedom Convoy has so far been peaceful and cooperative with police and city officials in other jurisdictions.**
 - **Convoy arriving from the west on the 417 will be directed to Sir John A MacDonald Parkway from the Pinecrest exit. Following this, Kent and Metcalfe exits will be used with vehicles directed to O’Conner as well. Demonstrators heading to 24 Sussex will be directed to take the Montreal exit to George Etienne parkway.**
 - **The convoy arriving from the east on the 417 will have access to the George Etienne parkway via aviation parkway. They will then continue on to King Edward then Rideau to access the downtown core.**
 - **Wellington will be closed between Metcalf and Lion with 3 lanes dedicated to the demonstration and the 4th lane for emergency vehicles.**
 - **Near Vanier, old Jetform park will be used to park trucks and passenger vehicles with cabs and LRT available for demonstrators to get downtown.**
 - **The trucks will be parked in the curb lane or at staging areas.**
 - **Currently, no indication of when road closures will commence.**

Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources) for the 28-29 Jan Demonstration in Ottawa:

- **Ottawa police assessment determines no need for people to stay home or for businesses to close due to the Convoy activities. They noted other elements including counter-protesters are harder to predict.** [Link](#)
- **OPP is advising motorists to avoid travel on Hwy417 and Hwy416 in the Ottawa for Friday afternoon and Saturday due to major delays associated with the truck Convoy.** [Link](#)
- Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and are coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.
- INTERSECT is indicating that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.

- Organizers of the protest have expressed the intent for a peaceful event, which is consistent with what has been seen in other areas where the convoy has stopped so far.

RCMP Update

Issue: Following the Government of Canada's announcement requiring all truck drivers crossing the border to be fully vaccinated effective 2022-01-15, planning for a national event entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022" was initiated on social media, advertising it as a fundraiser, which then gained momentum on other platforms. The convey began on 2022-01-22 in various provinces and is slated to converge on the National Capital Region (NCR) between 2022-01-28 and 2022-01-29.

Event Overview

- The mobilization of convoys commenced on 2022-01-22, across various provinces. Since 2022-01-25, there have been 19 events reported in relation to the Freedom Convoy, with the greatest activity seen in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. We continue to track the convoy as it's making it's way to Ottawa.
- Significant funds continue to be raised via a Go Fund Me Campaign, as of 2022-01-27, funds total \$6 M.
- According to the OPP, as of 2022-01-26 at 1600hrs, there are 471 vehicles in the convoy.
- OPP continues to track 11 different convoys currently converging in the province of Ontario and are estimating that they will arrive in the NCR on 2022-01-28 at 1530hrs.
- There are indications that some US trucks will be making an attempt to cross the border to participate in this demonstrations. CBSA has been engaged, given social media posts suggesting that convoys from the US will be crossing the border to support, and have advised that they have not seen much traction. Ongoing liaisons with CBSA will continue through until the end of the weekend.
- The details surrounding the demonstrations expected once all convoys converge on the NCR on 2021-01-29 remain unclear. The route details converge on Parliament Hill. It is unknown at this time if the group will remain on the Hill for the duration of the demonstration or if this will extend to other protected sites. Significant disruptions are expected.
- The organizing group has not made any mention of attending other locations, however, Open Source has identified multiple social media posts indicating that other groups might attempt to cause disruptions at various protected sites in the area (ie. 24 Sussex, Rideau Hall and Harrington Lake).
- SQ is advising that almost 4500 people may be attending the downtown core on 2022-01-29, with 1900 people already protesting in Gatineau. They have also advised that the eastern organizers of the convoy have indicated that approximately 400 vehicles will cross over the Quebec- Ontario boarder.
- OPS has advised that, in addition to the larger demonstration in the downtown core, organizers are planning additional events on 2022-01-29 and 2022-01-30 in Confederation Park, which will serve as the home base for some participants. This includes the installation of tents, food vendors (2 trucks) and a BBQ in the Park. Public Speakers are being organized for 1100hrs on 2022-01-29 and a church service is being planned for the same time on 2022-01-30.
- While the event organizers have repeatedly stated that this will be a peaceful event, given it's size, its likely organizers will be unable to control the actions of participants.

- Open Source has identified indications that other activist and hate groups plan on participating in the demonstration, with some online chatter inciting violence and making references to the situations in Belgium and Capitol Hill.

Operational Planning

- Given the multi jurisdictional impacts of this large scale demonstration on the NCR, all key stakeholders (RCMP, OPP, OPS, PPS, SQ, MRC des Collines, the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, SPVG) are actively planning and collaborating to ensure public safety.
- The Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS) is the planning lead for the Parliamentary Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is leading the planning for the National Capital Region and National Division is planning in support of our protective mandate and working to ensure that we support our law enforcement partners in the region with any specialized support services required.
- Intersect is engaged and meeting regularly.
- PPS has requested that PSPC cease all construction on the grounds of Parliament Hill and is working with the City of Ottawa/OC Transpo to explore the availability of public transportation (O Train) in the event that resources need redeployed throughout the Precinct.
- **The Office of the Secretary of the GG and NCC have confirmed that they will close the grounds of Rideau Hall on 2022-01-29**
- PPS will be hosting a meeting with PCO, PSPC, OPS and RCMP to ensure full coordination within the Parliamentary Precinct. The Corporate Security directorates in the Senate and the House of Commons are fully briefed and no concerns have been raised relative to the overall plans.
- Ottawa Police has signaled that preventative road closures will be affected in the downtown core, additional details to follow on these closures.
- **The RCMP's National Capital Region Command Centre (NCRCC) will be activated as of 08:00 on 2022-01-28, scaling up to a full activation for 2022-01-29.** The RCMP have communication resources working out of this command center. COVID 19 protocols are in place at the NCRCC; in addition to an ample supply of PPE, contact tracing protocols, social distancing and decontamination equipment, the ability to deploy voluntary Rapid Testing exists and is being discussed.
- **All key internal and external stakeholders will have a presence in the Regional Command Centre to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration.** While the NCRCC will also serve as the area command centre for the RCMP, forward command centres are being stood up at alternate locations by OPS and PPS with direct linkages into the NCRCC.
- Various RCMP assets (ground and air) are being deployed and stationed to assist in providing situational awareness as the convoy converges on the NCR and to supplement protective posture, in the event that an evacuation is required at one of our protected sites. Assistance from DND is also being sought.

Communications

- Communication leads from each agency are actively engaged and collaborating to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.
- OPS Communications will lead messaging associated with the National Capital Region, PPS Communications has the lead for communications relating to the Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill and RCMP National Division Communications will lead messaging as it pertains to our protective mandate.

- OPS delivered a briefing to the Ottawa Police Services Board on operational planning in response to the expected convoy. It was covered by various media outlets. Briefing highlighted multi agency collaboration and that planning efforts are well under way. OPS is requesting that residents and visitors to the NCR avoid travel into the downtown core over the weekend.
- OPS issued the following Public Service Announcement at 1620 hrs 2022-01-26 (<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?lang=en&newsId=9d1c61b6-8569-4aec-8481-2f32b7f61780>) advising the public that significant traffic disruptions are to be expected in the NCR this week and that there will be a heightened police and emergency service presences in the downtown core and on major highways and roads. They're encouraging residents to follow the city's traffic management tool (@Ottawa_Traffic) for real time updates.
- The Sergeant-At-Arms has distributed an email message to MP's with Constituency offices in the NCR, advising them of the potential disruptions and the precautions that can be taken to ensure their safety. It is expected that a similar message will be distributed to all Parliamentarians and Parliamentary employees.
- Steps have been taken with OPS to convene a virtual press conference should the situation arise. Spokes for the RCMP would include the Commanding Officer for National Division, A/Commr Ches Parsons
- **RCMP Media Relations Officers (MROs) are scheduled to field media calls before, during and after the protest.**
- RCMP National Division Media Relations has responded to media requests from numerous media outlets, including the Globe & Mail, CBC, and Le Droit. Significant media coverage continues, with over 100 articles pertaining to the 'Freedom Convoy 2022' identified this morning.
- **It is our understanding that OPS are planning a media brief tomorrow, 2022-01-28 at 11:30 hrs.** Partners have been invited but at this stage, it's expected to be an OPS-only media brief.
- RCMP will be issuing internal messaging to members in the NCR to be on stand by, have their kit in order and to remind them of procedures for handling media requests, etc.
- **Proactive social media is planned from all law enforcement partners in the NCS (RCMP, PPS and OPS). Common hashtags are being developed – will share once finalized.**
- **The RCMP have media lines prepared for a number of topics including the right to peaceful protest, the criminality of blocking bridges, our mandate in protecting the PM and GG, etc). Will share the package once finalized.**